

BLAZE OF GLORY™

THE LAST RIDE WESTERN HEROES

ALL
THE
COMICS
CODE
BOOKS
9-10

**BOOK
TWO**

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**JOHN
OSTRANDER**

**LEONARDO
MANCO**

**MARVEL
COMICS®**

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OUR STORY THUS FAR...

In the mid 1880s, the town of **Wonderment, Montana** – a peaceful mixture of freed blacks, whites, and Indians living together – came under attack by hooded **Nightriders**. **Reno Jones** and a French-Canadian trapper, **Marcel Fournier**, left to recruit gunfighters to come help their cause. Reno contacted his old friend the **Rawhide Kid**, who was playing with **Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show**. Rawhide's old trail buddy, **Kid Colt**, also linked up with them, just before the mysterious bounty hunter known only as **Gunhawk** came looking for him. Meanwhile, Marcel Fournier goes to meet a former associate...



by **JOHN OSTRANDER & LEONARDO MANCO**

Bullpen - Letters Mariana Manco - Colors

Mark Bernardo with Tom Brevoort - Editors

Bob Harras - Editor in Chief

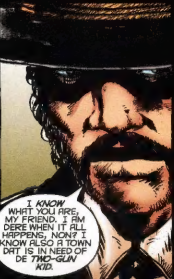
A Stan Lee Presentation

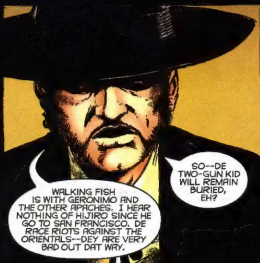


East of Wonderment, over the mountains, lies the mining town of **Anaconda, Montana**—a bustling boom town made rich by the copper mines nearby.

It attracts all sorts--from gunfighters to lawyers--and one man who has been, in his time, both.

CLAY HARDER
LAWYER





WALKING FISH IS WITH GERONIMO AND THE OTHER APACHES. I HEAR NOTHING OF HIJIRO SINCE HE GO TO SAN FRANCISCO. DE RACE RIOTS AGAINST THE ORIENTALS--DEY ARE VERY BAD OUT DAT WAY.

SO--DE TWO-GUN KID WILL REMAIN BURIED, EH?



I BURNED THE OUTFIT. BUT I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I WILL DO. I'LL USE MY CONTACTS HERE IN ANACONDA, SEE IF I CAN FIND OUT WHO AND WHAT'S BEHIND THESE ATTACKS IN WONDERMENT.



BON. I AM TO MEET RENO JONES AT FORT THUNDER IN FOUR DAYS TIME. YOU CAN GET WORD TO ME DERE IF YOU LEARN ANYTHING.



WILL DO. ADIOS, PARD.



The man calling himself Clay Harder stares at the door long after his friend has left. Then he walks over to his desk and pulls out a drawer.

He has not been entirely truthful with his friend. Like a ghost, the Two-Gun Kid still lingers...



Same time, back in
the hills up around
Wonderment...



YOU
SHOULD GO
BACK, GRAND-
DILIGHTER. IT
IS NOT SAFE
HERE FOR A
WOMAN.



THEN IT
IS NOT SAFE
FOR YOU, EITHER,
GRANDFATHER. I
WILL NOT LET
YOU WALK HERE
ALONE.



WELL,
WELL--WHAT
WE GOT HERE,
RED?



YOU
WON'T.



AND HERE
WE THOUGHT WE
WEREN'T GONNA HAVE
US NO FUN TONIGHT
AT ALL!





YOU SENT
WORD YOU
WISHED TO SEE
ME, FLAMING
STAR.

RED WOLF
HRS COME.

Red Wolf. Stories are told of this man, and the gray wolf, Lobo, who strides with him in both the white men's camps and the red man's. Long he tried to keep peace between the races, until he finally saw the white man did not want peace with the red, but only wanted them dead.

The stories then say how he fought only on the side of his red brothers.

Reports placed him with Hinmaton-Yalakiti and the Nez Perce in their attempted flight to Canada. Some say he was killed on the way.

Not every
story is true.



RILEY MINING

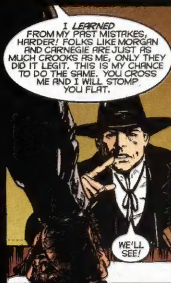
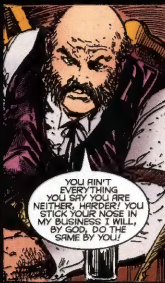
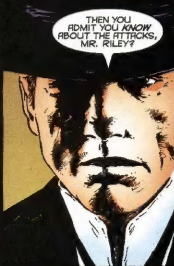
and

MANUFACTURE COMPANY

Anaconda, the next morning



THEN YOU ADMIT YOU KNOW ABOUT THE ATTACKS, MR. RILEY?





WE'LL
SEE.



The man they call
Clay Harder looks
neither left nor right
as he strides back to
his office. People, seeing
the fury in his face,
step quickly aside.



He wonders if,
perhaps, the
Two-Gun Kid
died too soon.



He wonders if it is time
for the dead to rise.



Two days
later...

NO LUCK,
MARCEL?

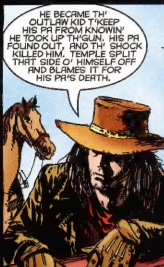
NON,
THE MAN I
SOUGHT, IT
SEEMS HE
IS DEAD.



ONE
OF YOU THE
RAWHIDE
KID?



MY NAME'S
LANCE TEMPLE.
GOT A TELEGRAM
FROM THIS RANNEY
SAYIN' T'MEET HIM
HERE. I'M HUNTIN' THE
OUTLAW KID, AND
HE SAID HE KNEW
WHERE T'FIND
HIM.



BULLPEN BULLETINS

AVAILABLE JANUARY 5TH

CABLE

Years have passed since UNCANNY X-MEN #378, and the world has taken a turn for the worse. While the X-Men continue an apparently futile battle to bring humanity and mutantkind together, a lone warrior rallies an army to battle the legions of the Egyptian Empire. He will be joined by allies from lands afar: Sunfire, of Japan, and Magneto, ruler of the African nation Genosha! By JOE FRUETT and BERNARD CHANG!

FANTASTIC FOUR

Victor Von Doom and Susan Storm Richards are getting married—but how do the remaining members of the Fantastic Four feel about this? And what about the rest of the Marvel Universe? Obviously, something is seriously out of kilter here—after all what happened to Sue's husband Mr. Fantastic? And her child Franklin? On this fateful day, everybody has an opinion—and for the FF, and their allies and enemies—nothing will ever be the same again! By CHRIS CLAREMONT and SALVADOR LARROCA!

SPIDER-WOMAN

The evil Spider-Man is back with a vengeance—and she wants to take poor little Mattie down bad! It's the knock-down, drag-out slugfest you've been waiting for! Plus, What will happen between Spider-Man and Spider-Woman now that Mattie has learned Peter Parker's secret identity? By JOHN BYRNE and GRAHAM NOLAN

THOR

While Thor contends with the machinations of Loki on Earth, the mad titan known as Thanos Invades Asgard! It's the first step in his quest for the prize at the end of the Map of All-Ending! And by Thanos' side is the inconceivable might of MANGG—the sum total of a billion, billion beings! By DAN JURGENS and JOHN ROMITA JR.!

UNCANNY X-MEN

With his ultimate destruction at hand, Apocalypse began a desperate gamble—one which has altered the very fabric of reality and rewritten history! A teenage Jean Grey approaches the Xavier School for the first time. Today is the day when she'll meet the people who will change her life. Charles Xavier, Hank McCoy, Bobby Drake—with Remy LeBeau and Ororo Munroe?! By ALAN DAVIS and ADAM KLBERT!

X-MEN: HELLFIRE CLUB

The origin of the Inner Circle continues! While young men from across Europe die in the trenches of WWI, others move among the shadows, grasping at power. Amidst the chaos, the madman known as Sinister and the original Union Jack make their moves to control the fate of the Shaw brothers! By BEN RAAB and CHARLIE ADLARD!

X-MEN: THE HIDDEN YEARS

The conclusion to the Savage Land saga! Separated since their arrival in the prehistoric jungle, the X-Men reunite against their greatest foe: Magneto! Guest starring Ka-Zar, Polaris and Havok! By JOHN BYRNE and JOHN BYRNE!

HEROES!

Even though it's only November '99 when I'm writing this, it's scheduled to be printed the first week in January and so I wanna be the first to wish you "Happy Y2K! And, for those who intend to be around a thousand years from now, Happy Y3K to you! See? We never stop pitching—we're out to collar every fan we can get! Speaking of pitching, here's our first question, which was just pitched by Martinez Lee of Philadelphia, PA.

"Does Marvel have any plans to bring back the 'WHAT IF' series? And while we're at it, where did you get the idea to create the series in the first place?"

Sure, Marty, we'll bring it back if we get enough letters like yours requesting it. As for the idea, I was one day talking to our terrific former writer/editor, Roy Thomas, and we were kicking around ideas, most of which started with "What if this happened?" Or, "What if so-and-so did such-and-such?" Finally, we looked at each other and said, "Hey, why not just do a mag called 'What If?' and put every nutty idea we get into it?" So we did. Roy edited most, if not all of them, and I'm still proud of each and every issue.

Okay, gang, here's your chance to win an extra special-award No-Prize. I'll tell you how right after you read our next letter, from Adrian Palomo of West Allis, WI...

"When was the first time in Marvel history that the 'Blue Area of the Moon' appeared?"

Let's face it. My memory's so bad I can't remember what I had for breakfast this morning, so no way can I begin to recall when we first gave you the moon's blue area! But the first half dozen heroes to send me the correct answer will receive the highest reward in all of comicdom—Marvel's own universally sought and cherished No-Prize!

Dan Vacek of Kennet Square, PA has a most curious and probing mind. Here's why...

STAN'S SOAPBOX

"If Marvel ever prints more copies of an issue than are actually sold, I've always wondered what happens to all the extra, left-over copies?"

The answer's simple, Danny. The dealers keep any unsold copies because they've already paid for them. Then they sell them to guys like us as collectible back issues.

Silvano Kievitz of Rotterdam, The Netherlands is obviously a fan of great acting.

"Will you audition for the role of Uncle Ben in the upcoming Spider-Man movie?"

Don't think so, Sil. I'm gonna stop grabbing all the great roles and give someone else a break. Besides, if I audition for the Spider movie, I'd rather be Peter Parker!

And so the curtain rings down on another adventure into exultation and enlightenment.

But be here next ish for another lesson on how to write the most popular column in comics without actually saying anything! And don't be shy; send your most cogent queries to stanfanz@aol.com or, if you're hankerin' to help the post office, just address your highly interesting and informative missive to Soapbox, Marvel, 387 Park Ave S, New York NY 10016. Till we meet again, keep thy webs untangled and wherever you go, whatever you do, sing out loud and clear for the world to hear: "Make Mine Marvel!"

Excelsior!

Stan

Stan Lee

MARVEL.COM

A picture's worth a thousand words in the Musée du Marvel!

Join your next George Perez? Think

you can keep up with the Kuberts? If the answer is "yes," then show us! Here at the Musée du Marvel, we want you to show off your artistic chops by submitting your depictions of favorite Marvel heroes! Who knows? Maybe John Romita, Jr. is out there, waiting to be discovered!

www.marvelzone.com

This week's chat schedule!

01/06 @ 9:30pm ET
EARTH'S MIGHTIEST CHAT with writer, Kurt Busiek and editor, Tom Brevoort!

01/10 @ 8pm ET
DEADPOOL writer — Joe Kelly!

01/11 @ 8pm ET
SLINGERS and BISHOP writer — Joe Harris!

AOL Keyword: Marvel
All Chat schedules subject to change/cancelation

BULLPEN BITS #34



BY CHRIS GIARRUSSO



THAT'S RIGHT-- CALEB HAMMER, PINKERTON
AGENT. DON'T GO FOR THAT HOGLEG,
BOY. YOU'RE WAY OUTGUNNED.



YOU
MIGHT WANT
TO ADD THAT
SUM UP
AGAIN.



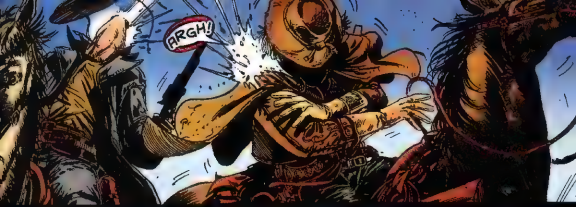
FINE.
ANOTHER TIME,
THEN. I'VE PURSUED
YOU THIS LONG,
COLT--A LITTLE
LONGER WON'T
MATTER.



YOU
BEEN HOUNDING
ME THIS PAST
YEAR, HAMMER, AND
I'M SICK OF IT!
I SAY IT ENDS
NOW!



POW
POW



Then all explanations
are lost as the four men
thunder out of town!



HEY!
WHERE YOU
GOIN' ?!



WE'RE
GONE! YOU
WANT TO JOIN US
THEN YOU BEST
SADDLE UP AND
RIDE RIGHT
NOW!



And five rode out as
the sun went down..



They rode until they were sure no one was coming after, and then the five pitched camp for the night...

I THINK MAYBE WE SHOULD TALK.

ABOUT WHAT?

ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED IN TOWN. ABOUT WHY YOU DON'T WANT FOLKS KNOWIN' YOUR NAME.

YOU ALWAYS WERE HOTHEADED, BUT NOT LIKE THAT. WHY DO THE PINKERTONS WANT YOU, COLT?

GOT A PRICE ON MY HEAD.

YOU'VE HAD A PRICE ON YOUR HEAD SINCE I *KNOW* YOU. MOST OF US HERE HAVE AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

YOU WHAT?

PRICE WENT UP SOME SINCE I SHOT THAT SHERIFF.

HOLD ON. YOU HEAR THAT?!



SHOW
YOURSELF,
WHOEVER
YOU
ARE!



HELL
OF A WELCOME,
BOYS.



TWO-GUN KID? I
HEARD YOU WERE DEAD
A YEAR OR SO
BACK.

I WAS. I
GOT TIRED
OF IT.



ZIS
IS THE ONE I
INVITED, MES AMIS.
HE SEEMS TO HAVE
CHANGED HIS
MIND.



I WAS
COMING INTO
TOWN AS YOU
BOYS WERE
RIDIN' OUT OF
IT. TRACKED
YOU HERE.

WHAT'S MORE
IMPORTANT--
I KNOW WHO IS
BEHIND THE ATTACKS ON
WONDERMENT, AND WHY.

And when he
has told them
who and why...



DAMN!
MAYBE ALL WE
CAN DO IS MOVE
ON!



MAYBE. MAYBE NOT.
MAYBE WE CAN MAKE IT
TOO COSTLY TO WIN. THEN
YOU CAN TAKE HIM TO
THE COURTS.



BEST
DECIDE ALL
THIS WHEN WE
GET INTO
WONDERMENT. IF
WE CAN GET INTO
WONDERMENT,
THEY'LL BE
WATCHING THE
PASSES.



YOU
GOT WORD
ON THE MEN
I SHOT?



TWO OF
THEM ARE DEAD.
ONE LIVED--THE ONE
NAMED **CALEB**
HAMMER.



I
SUGGEST
WE ALL GET
SOME SLEEP. THE
WAY I KNOW,
IT IS NOT
EASY.



THIS
RILEY HAS
MONEY. HE'LL
JUST KEEP HIRING
GUNS UNTIL
WE'RE ALL DEAD
AND HE WINS.



I
HAVE TRAPPED
DE WHOLE AREA. I
KNOW WAYS IN DEY
DON'T. I BELIEVE
I CAN GET US
IN.

A few days hard
riding later...

THIS
YOUR BACK DOOR,
FOURNIER?

OUI.

CAN
SEE WHY
THEY MIGHT
NOT
WATCH
IT.



ONLY
ONE MAN AND
ONE HORSE AT A
TIME. BRIDGE IS NAR-
ROW AND SLIPPERY.
MAN HAVE TO BE A
DAMN FOOL TO
TRY IT.

WHO
WANTS TO GO
FIRST?





I SHOW DE
WAY, I LEAD DE
WAY, EH?



WHO
WOULD BE
NEXT?



ONE
AT A TIME.
WAIT TILL I'M
ACROSS.



NO,
I CAN'T DO
THIS.



SURE
YOU CAN,
LANCE. DON'T
WORRY.
I'LL HELP
YOU.

WATCH.
I'LL GO
FIRST.



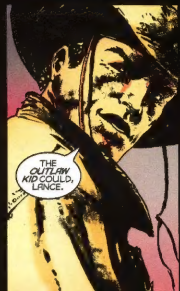
WRY FORWARD'S
ON THIS SIDE,
GENTS.



LANCE,
JUST LEAVE YOUR
HORSE THERE. I'LL
COME BACK AND GET IT.
JUST START OVER BY
YOURSELF.



NO,
I...LOOK,
I'M SORRY...
I JUST
CAN'T DO
THIS!



THE
OUTLAW
KID COULD,
LANCE.



POW





SO I
RECKON
IT'S UP TO TH'
OUTLAW
KID!!!



To be continued...

It Was Their Last Chance For Justice
And Their First Step Towards Immortality



BLAZE OF GLORY

THE LAST RIDE OF THE WESTERN HEROES

MARVEL ENTERPRISES PRESENTS

A MARVEL COMICS PRODUCTION "BLAZE OF GLORY"

TWO-GUN KID RED WOLF RAWHIDE KID GUNHAWK KID COLT:OUTLAW CALEB HAMMER OUTLAW KID GHOST RIDER

LETTERER THE MARVEL BULLPEN COLORIST MARIANA MANCO EDITORS MARK BERNARDO & TOM BREVDORT EDITOR IN CHIEF BOB HARRAS

PENCILLER LEONARDO MANCO WRITER JOHN OSTRANDER DIRECTED BY STAN LEE



SADDLE UP DECEMBER 15TH

